56

1948. File No. 9965/36
67455

P.W. DEPARTMENT

B CLASS

EL BRANCH.

Subject:— Log Hydro-Electric Works.
Damage to villages on the
bank of Sharavati river
in Bombay on account of
release of water from
reservoir of.—

B[K] 1948

IV

EB II

File No. 9965/36

Std. Stat. Bkp 24-B

G. R., G. D., No. 2408, dated 22-6-22.]

Correspondence

DOCKET SHEET (B)

Subject :—

File No.

DEPT.

BRANCH.

References :—

Date.	To whom sent.	Notes and instructions.

A Note on Electric Power Supply from Mysore Government's Jog Scheme to Bombay Karnatak.

--

The development of the Jog Hydro Electric Scheme by the utilisation of the waters of the Sharavati river was discussed by the Mysore Government with the Bombay Government as early as in 1929-30, and it was agreed then that the Mysore Government could develop a scheme capable of giving 20,000 E.H.P. and of this, Bombay Government should get 5,000 E.H.P..

2. In 1943, the Mysore Government decided on developing 64,000 E.H.P., without any further consultation with Bombay Government and this stage of development is almost complete now. The Mysore Government have now under execution the second stage of development bringing the total installation at the Mahatma Gandhi Power House at Jog to 120,000 kW. They have, further, under investigation the Honnemaradu Hydro Electric Project across the same river which contemplates a second power house a few miles downstream of the existing power house at Jog. It is reported that the capacity of the new station will be about the same as the present Mahatma Gandhi Power Station in the first instance and will be capable of being extended ~~to 360,000 kW~~ further when the power demands increase.

3. The question of the utilisation for the Bombay Karnatak, of the Jog power available from Mysore Government, was not considered seriously till the Bombay Electric Grid Department was formed. In order to obtain more power than the 5,000 E.H.P., promised by Mysore Government and also to get it at a cheaper rate than 0.25 anna per unit proposed by Mysore, considerable correspondence took place

between the two Governments. Later, there was a conference in May 1948 between the Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Agriculture of Bombay Government, with the Hon'ble Minister for Law and Labour of Mysore Government. The Mysore Minister then agreed to give 10,000 kW in the first instance from their existing station and agreed to give priority to another 20,000 kW when the second stage (total installed capacity 120,000 kW) was completed. Regarding the rate of supply also, he said that Bombay Government could work out three schemes assuming 0.2, 0.15 and 0.125 anna per unit. Based on this, a detailed scheme was sent by the Electrical Commissioner to Bombay Government. But later, when the Mysore Government were requested to confirm the above quantum of power and rate of supply, they reiterated their old rate of 0.25 anna per unit for supply at 110 kV busbars at Jog and also limited the power to be made available to 5,000 E.H.P.. They were prepared to give in addition, 6,000 kW at 66 kV at Harihar for which they sent a schedule of rates.

4. At this stage, Bombay Government decided that negotiations at ministerial level should be opened with the Government of Mysore for supply of power from the Jog Power House. This decision led to a second Conference of the Hon'ble Ministers of the two Governments on 10-2-1949. The Hon'ble Ministers of Bombay, Dr. M.D.D.Gilder and Shri M.P.Patil met Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Dewan, and Shri K.T.Bhasyam, Minister for Law & Labour of Mysore Government. They requested for the

supply of 15,000 kW at Jog at cost of generation plus 5 %, and 1,500 kW at Harihar on similar basis. The Mysore Government did not agree to meet these requirements of Bombay. It was ultimately agreed (1) that Mysore Government will give a "minimum" of 10,000 kW at Jog and 1,500 kW at Harihar, and (2) the rate of supply at Jog to be 0.225 anna per unit (a little less than the original rate of 0.25 anna per unit) and the rate at Harihar the same as that communicated by them earlier, but the minimum charge and period of contract to be refixed. The Mysore Government have not yet communicated the minimum charge at Harihar for which a reminder has been sent by Government.

5. After this Conference, further proposals were submitted by the Electrical Commissioner, Bombay, based on the limited quantum of power available from Mysore. This has been approved by Government and they have issued orders that power from Jog should be transmitted to Sirsi, Dandeli, Hubli, Nirsagi Dharwar and Gadag, and from Harihar to Haveri, Byadgi, Ranibennur, and for irrigation pumping at Airani, Tumminkatti, Chikkakuruvatti and Guttal.

The proposed routes of transmission lines and load centres for the Scheme utilising 10,000 kW available at Jog and 1,500 kW available at Harihar are shown in the enclosed Drawing No. J241. This will meet the demands of 8-industrial townships, 1-big water works and 4-lift irrigation pumping centres. The approximate cost of the Scheme will be about Rs. 176 lakhs. As stated above, the scheme has been sanctioned by Government and active

steps are being taken by the Electric Grid Department to execute it as early as practicable. It may take about 3½ years from now for the completion of the Scheme, as the delivery period for imported plant is some 2½ years. Recommendations have already been made to Government as to how some of the difficulties in the way may be tided over and if the Department's suggestions are accepted by Government, it may be possible to commence service from the Jog Scheme in the beginning of 1953.

P B Advani.

Electrical Commissioner
with the Government of Bombay.

ARK.11.11.49.

Encl: Drawing No. J.241.

Government Prohibition Programme. I.

48

General.

The Prohibition measures were first introduced in selected areas of the Province of Bombay in the year 1938. Soon after taking office in the year 1946, the Government decided to have complete prohibition in the Province within a target period of three years commencing from 1st April 1947 by enforcing progressive reduction in the sales and strength of intoxicants, etc. in all the areas of the Province.

The object in having a three years' period was three-fold to give sufficient time (1) to an addict to prepare himself to give up the habit of drinking when total prohibition is introduced (2) to the persons engaged in the trade to switch over from the Excise trade and (3) to Government to reshuffle its departmental machinery to enact comprehensive laws, find alternative modes of equitable taxation and to devise ways and means for utilizing to good purpose the bases of alcoholic drinks.

To implement this prohibition policy, it was necessary to reduce the sales of intoxicants gradually. It was, therefore, decided to introduce progressive yearly cuts of 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% in the consumption throughout the Province and accordingly the cuts are being applied yearly. In the case of toddy, similar cuts are applied to the number of trees tapped.

The rates of Excise duties on country liquor and the limits of possession, sale transport of all liquors and wines have also been reduced. Not only were a number of Excise shops curtailed but the shops that were allowed to continue were closed for two days in a week during 1947-48, three days in a week during 1948-49, four days in a week during 1949-50 and complete closure will be enforced from 1950-51. One of the days of closure of preference are (1) Public Holiday, (2) Mill pay day, (3) Wednesday (4) Friday, and (5) Monday.

Ganja, Bhang and Opium.

With a view to restricting the use of Ganja, Bhang and Opium only to addicts and to reduce gradually the quantity allowed to them, all hemp drugs and opium shops scattered over the province were closed with effect from 1st August 1947 and Government depot were opened mainly at Taluka and Mahal headquarters for the sale of these drugs to those addicts who held permits on the strength of medical certificates. Every three months the quota allowed to drugs addicts

is --

reduced according to the sale fixed excepting in the case of an addict who produces a fresh medical certificate to the effect th... such a cut may be withheld for a further period of three months, at the end of which his case is to be reconsidered.

Legislative measures.

3. As Government wished to be firm in implementing its prohibitic policy, a new prohibition Act (The Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949) has been introduced to the effect from 16th June 1949 to replace the existing Excise Laws. This act provides for more, deterrent, penal and restrictive provisions than those in the present Excise Acts.

Education and propaganda.

4. Now that the prohibition programme extends to the whole province, the necessity of educating and organizing public opinion in favour of prohibition on a province wide scale was very keenly felt and the Provincial Prohibition Board, a widely representative body consisting of both official and non-official members, has been constituted to cope adequately with the social aspect of the prohibition Programme. The main functions of this Board, the President of which is the Honourable Minister for Excise and Reconstruction, are :-

(1) to educate and organize public opinion on the problem of prohibition of alcohol and drugs,

(2) to advise on methods of detecting and preventing offences against the Abkari, Opium, Dangerous Drugs and Molasses Act,

(3) to provide facilities for counter-attractions, recreation and the provision of non-alcoholic drinks, and

(4) to assist all activities which further the policy of Govern-ment in regard to the prohibition of alcohol and drugs and to carry on social and welfare work.

The Provincial Prohibition Board carries on propaganda through the following agencies:-

(1) Magazine : A monthly magazine called "Sanjeevan" is publish-ed in --

in English, Kannada, Gujarati and Marathi. This mazazine publishes articles on social welfare and education and pays particular attention to the problem of drink. Pictorial accounts are given of the activities of various Committees and the work that is being done in the various districts with a view to promote mutual emolation. Articles are also published dealing with methods of propaganda and ways and means of providing social welfare facilities to the people;

(ii) Films: The Provincial Prohibition Board obtains from other departments and also produces through agencies films, records and slides on prohibitio which are sent to the districts to be shown to the masses. Posters are also painted and distributed all over the Province. Suitable slides are designed and shown in cinema houses.

(iii) Pamphlets and Booklets which are a collection of stories, one-act plays, and articles on prohibition are printed in various languages in a simple language which the masses can easily follow. These are meant both for pepple to read and for propagandists to use as material for their propaganda. Throughout the Province, dramatic parties have been organized and the Centr Office, through these booklets, supplies the necessary material for these dramatic parties for staging dramas and variety entertainment. In each district and big city a Prohibition Officer is appointed whose duty is to use all the above stated material for propaganda purposes in the district. The members of the committees and other social workers of the district also mov about in the districts to lacture to the public and purusade them to give up drink.

(iv) In each district, a Powada Party or a Kalapathak party s appointed and these teams go from village to village to sprea to he gospel of prohibition through the medium of songs. Dramas Kirtan and Bhajan parties also participate in these activities.

(v) Vans. Fully equipped propaganda vans fitted with sixteen mm. projectors and loud-speakers and gramophones go round the districts carrying propaganda and entertainment home to the villagers. At present one such van is provided for every district. Arrangements are being made to supply one van to each distri[illegible]

(vi) Social Welfare: Since it is felt that a large number of people drink for want of suitable recreation, Government has started and continues to organize recreation and amenities centres These are a sort of miniature clubs where the villagers and labourers in towns and cities can go for spending their leisure hours in a happy and useful manner. At the centre both indoor and outdoor games are provided, facilities for music are there, canteens very often run on Co-operative lines are provided, films are shown and variety entertainment is organized.

(a) Persuing the idea that the people themselves must organize both educative propaganda and recretional facilities, Government has made special efforts to approach Co-operative Societies and village Panchayats to include in their activities the starting of suitable welfare centres. A considerable number of Co-operative Societies have agreed to co-operate with Government in this scheme. This has the advantage of both economy and willing co-operation of the membersin running such centres, on a village self-help basis with suitable Government grants.

District Prohibition Committees.

5. District Prohibition Committees have also been formed to assist in all activities which further the prohibition policy of Government.

Sub-Committees of the Provincial Prohibition Board.

6. The Provincial Prohibition Board has formed seven sub-committees so that such committees may focus their entire attention and energy to the particular subject that may be assigned to them. The names of the sub-committees are as follows:-

1. Educational and Propaganda Sub-Committee.
2. Recreation, Counter-Attraction and Social Welfare Sub-Committee.
3. Research and Statistical Sub-Committee.
4. Neera Sub-Committee.
5. Molasses Sub-Committee.
6. Vigilance Sub-Committee.
7. Executive Committee.

It may be pointed out that the Research and Statistics Sub-Committee is conducting research through the University School of Economics of Bombay University and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in five/six cities and 24 selected villages of the Province with a view to ascertaining the incidence and extent of

the

the drink habit and the socieconomic effects of prohibition. The research will spread over a period of four to five years. The preliminary findings will be tabulated by the end of this year.

Possession of denatured spirit is not allowed without a permit and with effect from 15th April 1948 the possession of rectified spirit including absolute alcohol is prohibited except under a permit. All bottles of foreign liquor sold in the province now have a special banderoll affixed to the neck of the bottle around and overlaping a capsule. A person cannot now possess a bottle of foreign liquor without a banderoll unless he can satisfactorily account for it.

A special Sub-Committee is considering the alternative uses of the distilling bases for more productinve purposes such as chemical industrial and motive purposes.

Neera.

7. Since the people generally thought that the only use of palm trees to extract intoxicants, Government has made a special study of the possibilities of alternative uses of the palm trees. After considerable experiments they are now providing the public with the sweet and unfermented juice of the palm trees known as " Neera" which has the nutritive value. Efforts are also being made to produce Gur, Sugar, Sweets, syrups, etc. from Neera Cottage Industries are also being started where the palm leaves can be used to in preparing various useful domestic articles. Thus an attempt is being made by Government to give an economic alternative to the people in our attempt to wean the people away from drink.

Mhowra Flowers and Molasses.

8. The question of finding out how best the Mhowra Flowers and Molasses can be utilized for purposes other than liquor has already engaged the attention of the Board and proposals such as manufacture of Lactic Acid, Citric Acid, Food Yeast, etc. from Mhowra flowers and Power Alcohol from molasses are already under consideration. Power Alcohol can be used as motor fuel, admixed with petrol and the sugar Factories in the Province can be requested to manufacture Power Alcohol from molasses

produced....

produced at their factories for supply to Government at a certain fixed price. To work up this scheme, therefore, the Molasses Sub-Committee is entrusted with the problem of finding out the operative cost of Power Alcohol. Government also ordered a Power Alcohol plant to be set upat the Government Distillery at Nasik.

9. Government has called upon all Government servants to refrain from serving alcoholic drinks at official or semi-official parties given by them and taking drinks at hotels, restaurants, clubs, etc. where a number of persons gather for meals, refreshments etc. Government is going to take a serious notice if any Government servant found taking alcoholic drinks in these places or going about in a drunken state.

10. The measures so far taken would go to show that attempts are being made on all fronts to check the abuses arising from the use of intoxicants and simultaneous advance is being made to achieve the goal of prohibition within the target period ending 31st March 1960.

DD/31/12/

MYSORE STATE BORDER ARRANGEMENTS.

Along with all other Major States, the Mysore State was also approached in February 1948 to assist this Government in the successful enforcement of its Prohibition plan by adopting in the State territory a prohibition policy similar to that introduced in this Province.

The measures in force in this Province during the first year of the four year prohibition plan, were 25 per cent. cut in consumption of liquor and toddy, two days' closure of shops in a week, closure of all opium and hemp drugs shops and introduction of permit system for supplying drugs to addicts, etc. As no reply was received that Government was again addressed in November 1948 intimating the progress made during the year in the enforcement of prohibition in this Province and what steps would be taken during the next year i.e., 1949-50, which was the third year of the Prohibition plan. That Government was also informed that almost all the States situated within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Bombay had been either merged or integrated with the Province and that the excise administration of those State areas had been brought almost to the level of that of the Province and it was requested that as this Government had decided on the Prohibition policy if the Mysore Government was unable to agree to the introduction in the whole of its territories of the same measures as were in force in this Province and the merged States during the year 1949-50, it should at least agree to the creation of 5 mile shopless belt or to the introduction of similar measures in the 5 mile border belt. The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, in his letter dated 22nd April 1949 intimated that the present policy of that Government was to introduce in a few districts every year, total prohibition on the lines adopted by the Government of Madras, and that accordingly the 3 districts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldurg had already been declared dry from 1st July 1948 while the Shimoga and Chikmagalur districts would be made dry from 1st July 1949. He also added that Prohibition would thus be introduced all along the border of this Province with effect from 1st July 1949 and therefore, there was no necessity to create a five mile shopless border belt. The above arrangements meet the requirements of this Province and nothing remains to be done by the Mysore Government in this respect.

Sd/- S.G.S(awant).
29/12/49.

RD51/12.

Note on the question of Compensation to sufferers in the floods caused to Sharavati River in Kanara District due to sudden discharge of water from the Jog Hydro-Electric Works, Mysore.

There were frequent complaints from the villagers on the banks of the river Sharavati that they were put to great loss on account of the damage caused to their crops and property by the overflow of water released from the reservoir of the Jog Hydro-Electric Works without previous intimation. The Government of Bombay had received reports from the District Magistrate, Kanara at least on two occasions about the floods caused to the River Sharavati due to sudden release of water from the Jog Dam and the consequent damage to property of the people residing on the banks of the river in this Province. An intimation was received by the D.M.Kanara on 4th Sept.1947 that low lying fields from Balkur to Gersappa were under floods since fifteen days. Another similar flood was caused on 21/2/1948 washing away logs of wood weighing about 100-150 tons, carts and pots, etc. causing a loss of Rs.4,500/ The damage caused on these two occasions amounted to Rs.11878/-.

2. Complaints also appeared in the local press frequently. There was also a Council question by Mr.M.G.Gopi, M.L.C., in this respect. The matter was therefore taken up with the Govt. of H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore first in May 1948 and again in June 1948, requesting that Govt. to instruct the Superintending Engineer to see that water from the Dam was not let out suddenly without previous intimation to the local officers of

this.....

this Government. That Government was also requested to take up the question of granting compensation to persons who have suffered in the floods, as it was considered that the floods were caused entirely due to the negligence of the Mysore Govt. officials in releasing the water without assessing the quantity of water that would not cause any harm to persons residing down-stream. As no satisfactory reply in this respect was received from that Government, the matter was taken demi-officially without results. It was only when that Government was reminded in June, 1949 in the matter that a reply was received from the Mysore Government refuting their responsibility for payment of compensation to sufferers. In refuting the claims for compensation, that Government has made the following arguments:-

i) The maximum discharge of water in the river had not exceeded 95,000 cusecs at any time during the past eight years against the anticipated discharge of 2,00,000 cusecs in the river. The people of Honovar make use of the portion of the river-bed as Sandy Maidan; stocking timber and constructing temporary sheds. Naturally even a small excess flow in monsoon months is objected to by them.

(2) The contingency (of releasing water) arose all of a sudden and there was no time for any intimation being sent to the concerned officers. The Bombay Govt. cannot blame anyone except the people who have encroached the river margin.

3. In this connection a copy of the recent letter from the Collector of Kanara No. O/1740, dated the 24th December 1949 is enclosed herewith, wherein the correct position in respect of the charges made by the Mysore Government has been explained. It will be seen that the refusal of that Govt. in granting compensation to the persons who have suffered in the floods is not justified.

971

The.....

The question of compensation is being further taken up with the Mysore Government by officially addressing them suitably again in the matter.

4. The P.W.D has taken up separately the question of avoiding damage to the villages on the banks of Sharavati River due to release of tail water from the Jog Hydro-Elec. works. The question of future discharge of water from the Dam was dicussed by the Superintending Enginaer, Southern Circle, Belgaum, with the Superintending Engineer, Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-Electric Works and a tentative agreement has been reached in respect of discharge of water from the Dam in future so as to avoid damage to people residing down-stream. Even then, the claim for the damage which has been suffered by the people concerned cannot be ignored and will therefore, have to be pursued as stated in para.3. above.

31/12/69

Letter.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Political and Services Department, Bombay.

No.0/1740. via Karwar, 24-12-1949.

Subject :- Flooding of Sharavati River by the discharge of Jog Dam water.

Reference : Government P.& S.D.No.S.49/40922-B, dated 24-8-1949.

The Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, P.W.D.Bangalore has pointed out in his letter No. Pn.1236-37/Jps.3-48-22, dated 11th August 1949, the following circumstances which have caused the damage and has negatived their claims for compensation to the sufferers.

1. That the maximum discharge in the river has not exceeded 95,000 cusecs at any time during the past 8 years against the anticipated discharge of 2,00,000 cusecs;

2. That the people on the banks of the river encroached the flood margin for cultivation purposes.

3. That they stock timber at low levels; and

4. That they construct temporary sheds and use a portion of river-bed as a sandy maidan.

The points raised by him are discussed serially as under, in view of the actual state of things existing there.

Point 1: The Assistant Engineer, Jog Falls, who was specially deputed for studying the local situation and the water capacity at the mouth of the river at Gersappa has opined that the discharge of dam water to the extent of 10,000 cusecs by gradual discharge would raise the water level of the river from 3 to 4 feet. It is apparent from the facts made out by the Assistant Engineer at the meeting of the Rayots and Forest Contractors held at Gersappa on 13-3-1948 that the discharge on 21-2-1948 was 50,000 cusecs. As this volume of water was released at a stretch, the water level of the river must have risen 15 to 20 feet which the people living on the banks are never accustomed to even in times of ~~max~~ heavy floods in the monsoons. The people living on the banks ordinarily expect floods in small degrees during the particular period of monsoon when they take due precautions to safeguard their crops and property. Since the discharge in the first week of November 1947 and 21-2-1948 were sudden and without previous intimation the sufferers of the floods were taken by surprise and could not do anything to avert the effects of the unexpected discharge. In these circumstances

the point urged by the Secretary regarding the discharge of only 95,000 cusecs of water during the period of 8 years, cannot come in the way of granting compensation to the sufferers.

Point 2: As discussed above, the people living on the banks of river are expected to know the ordinary flood margin limit in the monsoon only. They never raise crops outside their malki lands. Besides there is no flood margin limit set apart for the purpose of meeting the contingency arising out of floods.

Point 3: The Forest coupes in this taluka are in the interior and it is a long standing practice of forest contractors to bring timber from the forests after the monsoons and store it on the banks so as to facilitate them to transport it further to the depots or to the marketting places. This practice cannot be said to be illegal or unauthorised.

Point 4: Only at Gersappa there is a vast area of sandy beach which is generally occupied by petty traders and forest contractors with necessary permission during summer, as Gersappa is a place where weekly bazars are held. As floods are unknown in this part of the taluka except in the monsoons as and as the discharge on the 21st February 1948 was sudden and without previous intimation, the occupation of the sandy beach by the sufferers cannot be objected to.

In the circumstances stated above, I do not agree with the Secretary to the Government of Mysore in his views which seem to be rather imaginary than real. The claims for compensation from the sufferers are genuine and are not due to negligence or defaults on their part and hence they deserve to be considered sympathetically.

~~Corrected by the D.M.~~

(Sd) M. K. Jadhav.

District Magistrate, Kanara.

K.22/12.

L 73

~~3220/35543~~ 9965/36/56795.

El. Br. P.W.D.

Submitted.

2/- The Collector of Kanara has forwarded a letter addressed to the Secy. to the Govt. of Mysore in connection with the damage caused to the villagers on the banks of river Sheravati due to the release of the tail water from the reservoir of the Jog Hydro-El. Works without previous intimation, for transmission to the Mysore Govt. & for taking necy. suitable action in the matter. Recently a similar letter was addressed by the Collector to the Mysore Govt. through the P.&S.D.

1-5

3/- In this connection it may be added for information that several complaints have so far been recd. in this connection. A question has also been put up in the L.C. by Mr. M.G. Gopi, M.L.C. in the matter & the same has been transferred to the P.&S.D. for disposal.

In pre No 3220/71420

S.W.P-A File No L-C. 31/46 P 19 Correspondence Section

Recently a copy of cutting from the "Kanara News" dated the 30-8-48, on this subject was forwarded to this office by the H.M., P.W.D for remarks, report. The reports from the Collector of Kanara & the Ex. Engr., Kanara have been called for & three pp. are at present under U.O.R. to the El. Comm. since the 11-10-48, for favour of his remarks in the matter.

3220/71420 P.17

4/- It is now proposed by the Collector of Kanara that there shd. be a ~~joint~~ Joint inspection by the Engrg. Officers deputed by the Mysore & Bombay Govts. to decide the exact quantity of water that could

~~S 224/55523~~ 9965/36/56795

be released at a time without causing inconvenience & damage to the crops & properties of the villagers. It is proposed by the Collector to depute the Ex. Engr., Kanara Dn. for this work. This Deptt may agree with the collectors proposal.

5/- It is for orders whether, pending receipt of reports from the El. Commr. & the Ex. Engr., Kanara Dn., the letter sent by the Collector may be forwarded to the Mysore Govt & if so with what remarks. Since the first letter was transmitted through the P&SD the pp may be shown U.O. to that Deptt before issue.

23-10-48.
25

27/10

This letter should be sent through the P&SA as it is another putting to a state. This indiscriminate letting down of water will have the effect of some regulations drawn up for the same. The SE.SC. may be asked to contact the Mysore state Engineers & discuss matter in all its aspects. CS. may see this.

Sec(I) Dy. Secy Secy(9) U.O. 8.

27/10/48

urgent.
This is P.S. to JS., 28-10-48.

POLITICAL AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT
File No. P&SD 9965
28 OCT 1948
Serial No. 45568

PWD 13

Submitted with ref to the P.W.D. note dated the 27-10-68.

2. There have been frequent complaints, in press as well as to this Govt., about the damage caused to the agricultural crops etc by the floods caused due to the released water from the Hydro-Electric works at Jog in Mysore State. During the last Council session, a question was also asked by Mr. Gopi M.G. regarding the damage done by such floods. So far as this Govt is aware, there were two such occasions when the water was released by the Mysore State Authorities at Jog Project - without previous warning. Once in Sept 1967 and again in Feb. 1968. The damage on both these occasions amounted to Rs. 118781/-, and as it was solely caused due to the negligence of the Mysore Govt Authorities, in discharging the huge quantity of water without notice to this Govt Officials in the adjoining Honavar Taluka in Kanara Dist., that Govt was addressed to take up the question of compensating the persons who have suffered the loss. That Govt was also requested to stop further discharge of water to avoid further calamity to the people and property on the banks of the Sharavati

Tharavati River. In spite of this Govt's requests, it appears that the Mysore Govt has taken no steps to avoid such indiscriminate release of water from the Dam, as the water was again released in Aug 48 and Oct-Dec.

3. The villagers are thus put to great hardships due to these frequent floods. Besides the immediate damage done to the standing crops it is also feared that the oil-contents of the water from the Jog Project may do a permanent harm to the agricultural land.

4. The P.W.D. has forwarded a letter from the Collr of Kanara for transmission to the Mysore Govt. His Deptt. had, on two occasions transmitted the Collr's letters to that Govt on which no action appears to have been taken by that Govt. It is therefore suggested that a D.O. letter may be sent to the Chief Secy to the Govt of Mysore forwarding the Collr's letter and requesting to take immediate action to put a stop to such indiscriminate release of water, ~~without warning this Govt officials~~.

A

D/S.
C/S

As at 'A' above,

P.M.
5/11

5/11/W

C.S

Please frame a d.o. letter to the Chief Secretary accordingly.

5/11

77 15

PESD/B

Resubmitted with a draft as per C.S.'s orders on pre-page.

lulis
11/11

RNO.
11/11

11/11/78

C.S

PWD 13.

Submitted with reference to this Deptt note dated 11-11-48 on page overleaf.

2. The D.O. letter to the civic Secy to the Govt of Mysore having been issued, these papers may be returned to the P.W.D. after taking copies.

The papers# underlying P.W.D. letter No S 220/22232-El, dated the 5th May 48 received with that Deptt Endt. No. LC.31/46-EL,‡ dated the 26th June 48 may also be returned to that Deptt. as they are no longer required in this Deptt.

18/11

18/11/48

A.S.

p 7 in the correspondence side.

File No. S 220/71420 : Pgs. 1-10

‡ Slip A
File LC.31/46
p 19
(Correspondence Section)

pp. 9 in the
Correspondence

P35 DIS

Submitted for information.

2. Copies of relevant pages in the P.W.D. file have been kept in this Deptt. These papers may now be returned to the P.W.D. Deptt as proposed in this Deptt note dated the 18-11-48.

1/12/48

U.O.C. to the P.W.D. Dt.

& with P.W.D. P35 Diary No. 52205/49153 and No. S-229/22232-E1, dated the 18th Sept 48 and 26th June last respy.

For further
action please
see file No 9965/36/ 71420 &
66340
& 40975

9965/36

67455

Please enter as agency
seg on P 2 of SE

Letter. 3 84

To

The Secretary to & the Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

No.0/A-1960. via Karwar, 9-10-1948.

Subject :- Release of water from the Reservoir at Jog.

Frequent complaints are received from the villagers on the banks of the River Sharavati that they are put to great ~~x~~ loss on account of damage caused to their crops by the over-flow of water released from the reservoir of the Jog Hydro-Electric Works without previous intimation. The release of water from the reservoir is so large in volume that the water level of the Sharavati river rises by several feet resulting in submergence of rice fields and at times the water enters the villages. This indeed causes a great damage to the standing paddy crop as several thousands of acres are under paddy crop along the banks of the river over a distance of 18 miles in length. The grievances of the people are genuine and require immediate action to redress them.

I took up this matter with the Superintending Engineer, Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-Electric Works, Jog and brought to his notice the great damage done to the people living on the banks of the river and requested him not to let the water from the reservoir indiscriminately in all seasons without previous notice and more so during the crop season. He replied that water to the extent of 1700 cusecs only would be let out at a time throughout the year and after giving previous intimation to the villagers of the date of releasing the water. He also suggested the joint inspection by the Engineering Officers deputed by the Governments of Mysore and of Bombay as to the effect of 1700 cusecs of water if let out from the reservoir at a time to the field and villages on either bank of the river. He was accordingly asked to inform me the date on which the 1700 cusecs of water would be let out to enable the Executive Engineer, Kanara Division to arrange for a preliminary inspection of the river and conditions of submergence along the banks. In reply the Superintending Engineer, M.G.H.E.Works, Jog, informed me that the question may be taken up after the rains.

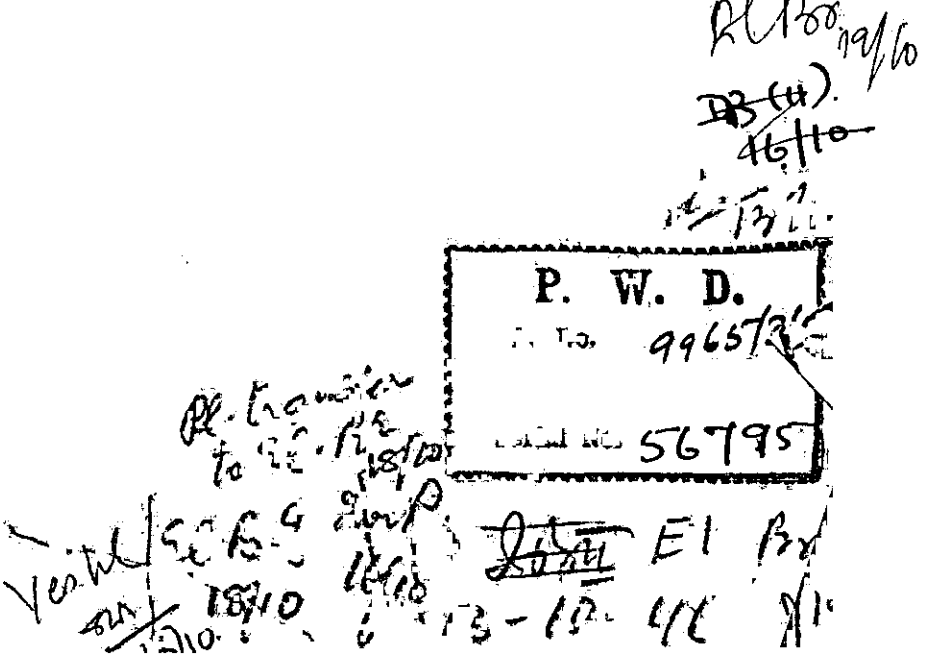
While the matter was still under correspondence, the tail water from the reservoir was again released in August last without any previous intimation to the villagers This has evoked much complaint from the public and the Press. The Superintending Engineer was informed of this and requested to stop any further release of water until the matter is finally settled. He has acknowledged this communication on 29.9.1948 stating that the matter is receiving attention.

In the meantime I have received a wire from the Mamlatdar of Honavar (copy enclosed) on the 6th instant complaining that the tail water is released again and the agriculturists are unable to do their agricultural operations. From this it appears, all the representations made to the authorities of your Government in charge of the work have had no effect. I therefore suggest that immediate steps may kindly be taken to stop the further release of water from the reservoir until the exact quantity of water

to be released at a time without causing inconvenience and damage to the crops and properties of the villagers is finally settled by the Executive Engineers of both the Governments. Further, I would request you to direct the Superintending Engineer to fix the date when I could send the Executive Engineer, Kanara Division to decide this question finally as the rains have now ceased.

Collector of Kanara.

Submitted through the Government in the Public Works Department, Bombay for further transmission to the Government of Mysore and for taking necessary suitable action in the matter.


P. W. D.
56795

Copy of telegram dated 6-10-1948 from the Mamlatdar of Honavar.

"AGRICULTURISTS ON SHARAVATI RIVER BANKS COMPLAIN
AGAINST INDISCRIMINATE DISCHARGE OF JOG TAIL WATERS
AND PLEAD INABILITY TO DO AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS STOP
WIRED ~~SEE~~ TO SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER TO REDUCE
VOLUME AND INFORM STOP KINDLY MOVE MYSORE GOVERNMENT
TO ISSUE ORDERS TO SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER JOG "

D.O. No.S-49-B.
Poln. & Services Deptt.
B.C. 1 Nov. 1948.

My dear

I forward herewith a letter No.O/A-1960, dated the 9th October 1948, from the Collector of Kanara and its accompaniment regarding the release of water from the Jog Hy. Electric Works. ~~There have been frequent~~ Complaints in Press ~~as well as to this Govern-~~ ~~ment about~~ the damage caused ~~due to~~ the indiscriminate release of water by the Mysore State Authorities at Jog-Project. The damage done to agricultural crops, etc., on two such occasions in Sept. 1947 and in Feb. 1948, amounted to Rs.11878/-. In this connection, I invite your attention to the P & S.D. letters No.S-49/19717-B, and No.S-49/19717-B, dated the 5th May and the 17th June 1948, respectively, in which you were requested to take up the question of compensating the persons who had suffered thereby and to stop further discharges of water to avoid further calamity to the people residing down-stream on the banks of the Sharavati River. It appears, however, that the Mysore Govt. have taken no effective steps in the matter as the water was again released twice during the last three months, without giving any previous notice of the same to the Mamlatdar of Honavar.

The villagers in the adjoining Honavar Taluka of the Kanara Dist. of this Province have ~~thus put to~~ great hardships due to frequent floods caused by ~~the~~ indiscriminate release of water by the State Authorities besides the immediate damage done to the crops, it is also feared that the oil-content of the water from the Jog-Project may do permanent harm to the Agricultural l

I, therefore, request that you will be so good as to move the Govt. of Mysore to take up the question of giving compensation to the persons who have suffered loss due to such floods and to consider carefully the suggestions referred to in para 1 of the Collector of Kanara's letter. I further suggest that pending a final decision on the suggestions, further release of water from the reservoir may be completely stopped so as to avoid damage to the crops and properties of the villagers.

Yours sincerely,

(M.D. BHAT.)

K. Shrinivasan, Esquire, M.A.,
Chief Secretary to the
Govt of H.H. the Majaraja of Mysore,
Bangalore.

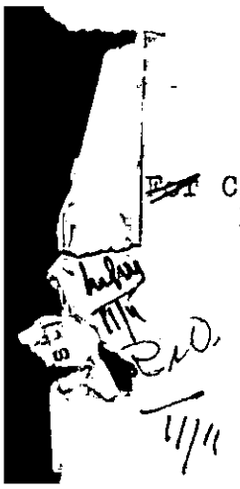
ISSUED
16 NOV 1948

No.S-49/B.
Poll. & Services Deptt.
B.C. 16 November 1948.

Copy forwarded with compliments to the Collector of Kanara for information.

By order,

Chief Secy. to the Govt. of B'bay,
Poll. & Services Deptt.



K. Srinivasan, B.Sc.,

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

C.S 103

Dated Bangalore, ...19th..Novr.,.....1948.

D.O. No.

POLITICAL AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT
File No. 149
B 24 NOV 1948
Serial No. 49400

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter No.S-49-B dated the 16th instant regarding the release of water from the Jog Hydro Electric Works and to state that the matter is being attended to in the Public Works Secretariat. The letter now received has also been passed on to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department for immediate necessary action.

Yours sincerely,

K. Srinivasan

Sri M.D.Bhat,
Political and Services Department,
Bombay Castle - Bombay.